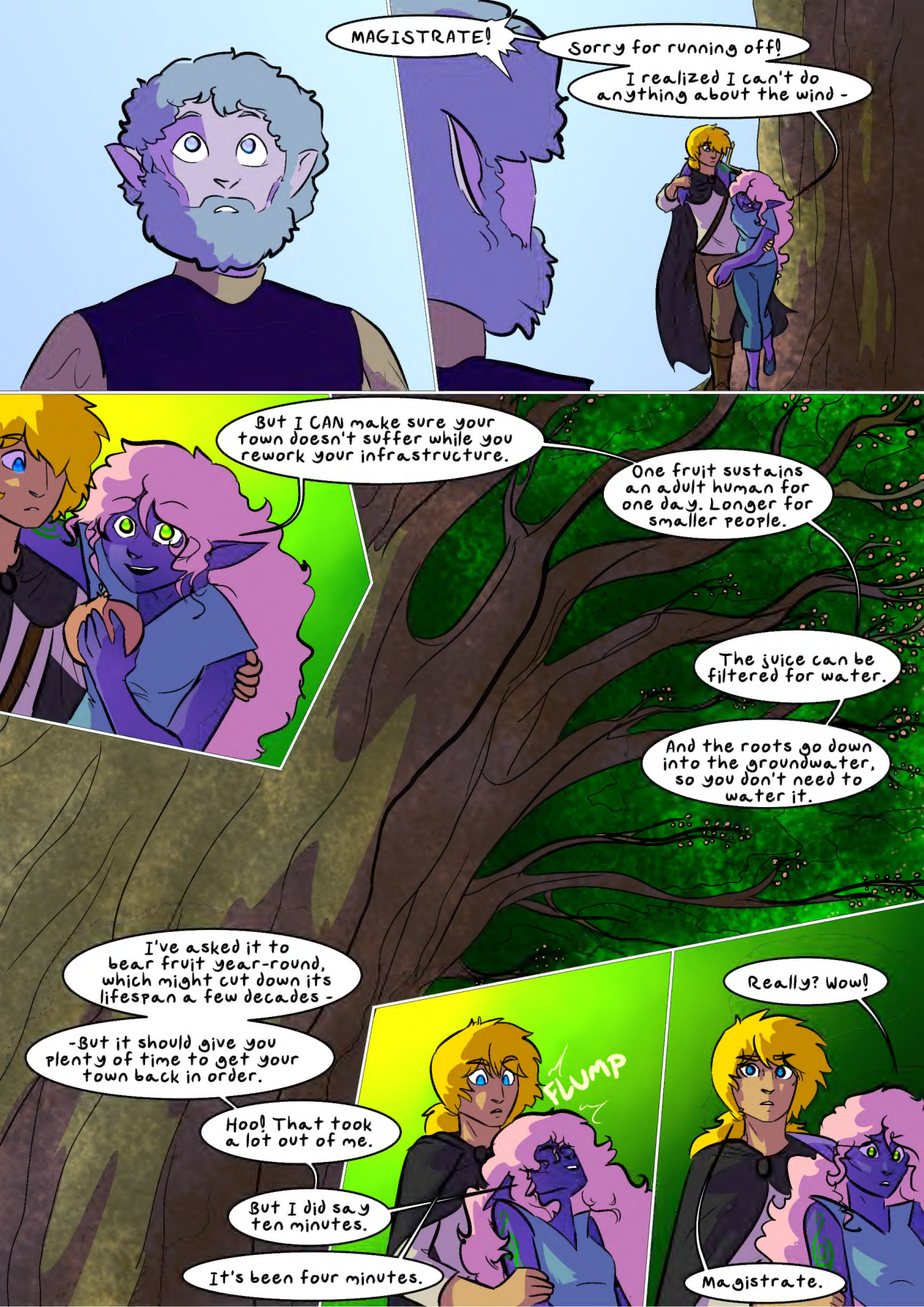
Chapter 5
The Storm and the Sorcerer

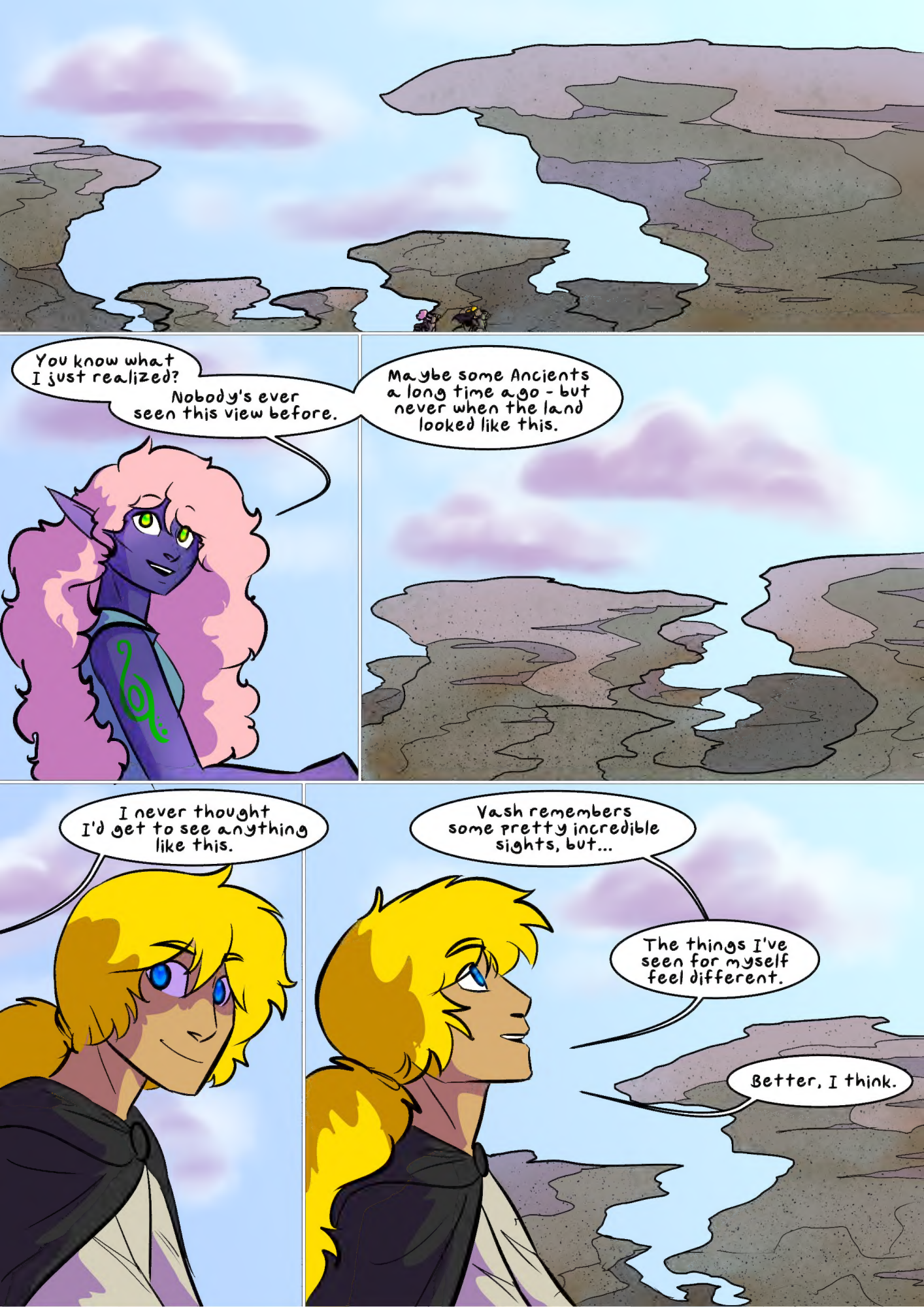
Okay. The standing storm is gone.
Even though that's impossible.
So now the wind has stopped-
...And the town is freaking out because they just lost their livelihood and infrastructure.
That's understandable.
My mill! It's not running!
What's going on?
The pumps-
The STORM-
What's going on here?
Magistrate! We don't know!
The wind is gone! How will we-?
Gone? Impossible! How could this ha ve-?
AND the magistrate is probably about to blame me for this.
Did I miss anything?
Alinua.
A cave entrance has been exposed.
It must have been covered by the storm.
If we leave now, we could be there in a day.

PING
Ten minutes. I'll be right back!
Alinua?
Huh.
What in the world is going on here?
And where did SHE go?!
You know, I have no idea.
RUMBLE

HUFF
HUFF


MAGISTRATE!
Sorry for running off!
I realized I can't do anything about the wind -
But I CAN make sure your town doesn't suffer while you rework your infrastructure.
One fruit sustains an adult human for one day. Longer for smaller people.
The juice can be filtered for water.
And the roots go down into the groundwater, so you don't need to water it.
I've asked it to bear fruit year-round, which might cut down its lifespan a few decades -
-But it should give you plenty of time to get your town back in order.
Hoo! That took a lot out of me.
But I did say ten minutes.
It's been four minutes.
FLUMP
Really? Wow!
Magistrate.

I'm sorry to leave at such a chaotic time, but due to the disappeareance of the storm, something urgent has come up.
We need to head into the wastes as soon as possible.
Do you have two riding animals we could buy?
BUY?!
...Huh.
See? Who needs money?


You know what I just realized?
Nobody's ever seen this view before.
Maybe some Ancients a long time ago - but never when the land looked like this.
I never thought I'd get to see anything like this.
Vash remembers some pretty incredible sights, but...
The things I've seen for myself feel different.
Better, I think.

I bet Vash never saw this!
No, he never went into the storm.
He did fly over it once, though.
Vash can FLY?
No, no! Of course not!
He just knew this dragon who-
BOOM
...What was THAT?

KTHOOM
Whatever it is, it's not stopping.
Well, it looks pretty far away...
And it's not between us and the entrance.
We can probably avoid it without too much trouble.
CRACK
It might go towards the town.
...Yeah.

Do you see that?

Uh - what?
The cloud?
The person in the cloud.

There's a PERSON in there?!
I can just make out their silhouette.
It looks like they're in pain.
I think they need help-
NO!
Listen - please. I have a really bad feeling about this.
Something's wrong. REALLY wrong.
Alinva...
Can't you feel it?!
I can't, but...
You're really scared, aren't you?
More scared than when you nearly died.
But if they're a danger to the town, we have to do something -
And if they need help, I - I can't just leave them.
I'm going to get closer.

KENDAL-!
If it goes bad, I'll run.
And I'm durable, remember?

...
...Hello!
WHOOSH
Ah...
...do you need...
...help?
WHAP
GET AWAY!
RUN!!

KRACK
DOOM
SSSSSSSSSSSS
heh.
hehehehe.
"Help."

CRACK
That's enough! Come on!
No, I was right! He needs help!
It's like he's fighting something!
Yeah, US! Get on!

He didn't want to hurt me! He told me to run!
We SHOULD be running!
This is too dangerous! Just LEAVE IT!
I didn't leave YOU.

aagh...
...sorry. are you-?
!!
ALINUA-!
Hold on.

WHEW
...It didn't do that to ME.
Just kind of burned a lot.
Good! Can you stand?
Uh - g-give me a minute.
Oh no.
...Can you RUN?

I - I'm sorry.
This was a mistake-
!
No.
She's already here!
THOOM

AND STAY OUT!!

No.
Absolutely not!
He nearly killed us!

nnh...
nnaAAH!
Careful.
That's a loaner.
How are you feeling?
Who are you?
What happened?!
I'm Kendal.
I found you in the wasteland after the storm disappeared.
As for "what happened", uh...
I think you might need to tell ME.

What?
Well, you were leaking this caustic black energy. Then you stopped and passed out.
Any idea what that was all about?
Ah!!
No, no no no-
...no.
...Nice tattoo?
No. THESE are nice tattoos.
THIS is really, really bad.
What is it, then?
...
...Maybe you should start from the beginning?
The beginning.
Yes.